



Jim Doyle
Governor

Helene Nelson
Secretary

State of Wisconsin

Department of Health and Family Services

November 12, 2003

Dear Pharmacy Provider:

Effective for dates of service on and after December 1, 2003, all nonsedating antihistamines except over-the-counter Loratadine will require prior authorization (PA).

On September 24, 2003, the Wisconsin Medicaid Prior Authorization Advisory Committee met and discussed nonsedating antihistamines. The committee achieved a clear consensus that:

- It would be appropriate to require PA on any non-sedating antihistamine other than Loratadine.
- Grandfathering of patients on other non-sedating antihistamines would not be necessary.
- Children under the age of two should automatically be granted PA since Zyrtec is the only nonsedating antihistamine with FDA approval for children ages six months through two years.

Based on the minutes from that meeting, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services directed that all prescriptions for nonsedating antihistamines except over-the-counter Loratadine require PA. In addition, children under the age of two should be given special consideration in the PA criteria.

As recommended by the committee, Medicaid recipients will be required to try over-the-counter Loratadine even if they are currently taking another nonsedating antihistamine drug. If the recipient fails on over-the-counter Loratadine, PA may be granted for one of the brand-name products. In addition, children under the age two will automatically be granted PA for Zyrtec. As with other over-the-counter medications, Medicaid recipients will continue to need a prescription in order to receive Loratadine.

SeniorCare does not cover over-the-counter medications. Therefore, SeniorCare participants will be required to purchase over-the-counter Loratadine. If a participant fails on over-the-counter Loratadine, PA for a brand name product may be granted. Over-the-counter Loratadine is available at a price lower than the SeniorCare co-payment amount.

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PA will be available through the STAT PA system. Pharmacies may begin requesting PA on November 17, 2003, for dates of service on and after December 1, 2003. Attached is a worksheet providers may wish to use when calling the STAT PA system.

If you have additional questions, please call Provider Services at (800) 947-9627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mark B. Moody".

Mark B. Moody
Administrator

MBM:my
PA11010

Attachment